

RENSSELAER REPUBLICAN AND JOURNAL DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

The Friday Issue is the Regular Weekly Edition.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
DAILY, BY CARRIER, 10 CENTS A WEEK
BY MAIL, \$3.75 A YEAR
SEMI-WEEKLY, IN ADVANCE, YEAR \$1.50

NEALEY & CLARK, - PUBLISHERS

Entered at the Postoffice at Rensselaer, Indiana as Second-Class Matter.

Big Convention at Washington.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 1.—Congressmen from all over the land are arriving in Washington today and several formal and informal conferences are in progress. By the last of the week, the gathering of the legislative clans will be practically complete.

Aside from the solons, many influential men are assembling in the capital city to take part in the many big conventions scheduled for this week and next. The first of these meetings, beginning tomorrow, will be that of the National Conservation Commission, organized as a result of the conference called by President Roosevelt last spring. Addresses by President Roosevelt and the president-elect are expected.

The commission is divided into four classes. A committee of thirteen is in charge of the improvement of streams. Another committee of like number has the care of the forests. Still another committee of thirteen has the direction of efforts to prevent the waste of land. The fourth committee has charge of mineral resources. That is devoting itself now to the more economical mining of coal.

The Southern Commercial Congress is expected to bring from 1,000 to 1,500 business men from the south to this city. The south has need of river and harbor improvements, and the meeting of southern business men is expected to develop into as much of a waterway discussion as the gathering of the River and Harbor Congress, of which Representative Ranscell, of Louisiana, is president. That congress is to meet here on Dec. 11, 12 and 13.

But before it comes the Country Life Commission. That will be on Dec. 8, and it will be an adjunct of the Conservation Congress from which it sprang. That is what has been facetiously referred to as the Uplift Commission which, at the behest of President Roosevelt, is to take the American farmer by the scuff of the neck and hoist him to a higher level.

The River and Harbor Congress is the body that will produce the most interesting situation. The advocates of the Lake-to-the-Gulf Deep Waterway think the congress should make a definite indorsement of that project. Hitherto the congress had held that its object should be merely to create a sentiment throughout the country which would warrant congress in passing an annual river and harbor appropriation bill of \$50,000,000.

There are other projects that look just as good to their proponents as the Lake-to-the-Gulf plan, wherefore it seems probable that that proposal will provoke debate.

Depository Proposals January 4th.

The law that provides for the deposit of public funds, also provides that depositories must be selected new every two years. The first selection of these depositories, was made last December, and the next, according to law, must be made on Jan. 4, 1909, and thereafter every two years. County funds, city, town, township and school corporation funds must be provided with depositories on that day, and notice of the meeting to receive proposals must be given in newspapers at least 20 days before the 4th day of January. The notices should therefore, be published in the Republican not later than Dec. 11th. If trustees and others who are required to see that this notice is given will send us the names of the president and secretary of the advisory board and the place where the proposals will be accepted, we will see that the advertising is properly done.

Cream Wanted

Will pay high prices and remit promptly. Why send your cream to Chicago when you can sell it in your neighboring town and get a fair, honest test.

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BOLIVIAN PETTICOATS.

They Are Numerous and of All the Colors of the Rainbow.

The prized possession of the Bolivian Indian woman and her chief pride also, whether she is pure Indian or chola, is her petticoat. Her dowry is in this garment. Like the Dutchwoman of tradition, she carries her wealth about with her. These petticoats are of all colors of the rainbow and diverse other hues not found therein. I first noticed them at Nazarene and remarked the love of color, which must be inborn, for the garments were of yellow, purple, violet, fiery red, crimson, scarlet, subdued orange, glistening saffron, blue and green. They were short, reaching barely below the knee, and no difference was observed between childhood, maidenhood, matronly middle life and wrinkled old age. Glancing from my window in Tupiza, I thought it was a parade of perambulating balloons.

These women have a habit which the bashful traveler does not at first understand. When he sees one of them calmly removing a petticoat as is apt to turn away, but he need not do so. It may be that the advancing heat of the day has caused the wearer to discard the outer skirt, but more likely it is the vanity of her sex and the desire to make her sisters envious by showing what is beneath for each new venture disclosed is more brilliant than the one which overlapped it. I sat in the plaza at Tupiza and watched two Indian women try to make each other envious. The first one removed the outer petticoat, which was of purple. This divestment disclosed another garment of blazing red, and after that came a brilliant yellow. The other woman started with a green petticoat and gradually got down to a mixture of blue and yellow. By that time I had begun to fear for the consequences and made a pretense of turning my back by strolling to the hotel.—National Geographical Magazine.

MOHAMMED'S BLOODY HAND.

History of the Imprint on a Pillar in the Church of St. Sophia.

In the course of our exploration in Constantinople we visited a building in an obscure and poor quarter of Stamboul inhabited solely by Mohammedans.

It is called the Mosque Kahrie, but it is or was a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. The beauty of the mosque ceiling and walls not even centuries of neglect have been able to obliterate.

When we returned to the great Church of St. Sophia, now a mosque, and saw again the print of the bloody hand of Mohammed, which is pointed out high up on the wall of that once Christian church, we understand its significance better than we had at first sight.

Mohammed II. after advancing his outposts gradually and stealthily had finally, as if in a night, crossed the Bosphorus from Asia and raised his forts on the European side of the stream. Just the day before, on a trip up the Bosphorus, we had seen the ruins of those fortifications.

The rulers of the city had protected in vain against this encroachment. When the Moslems finally attacked the city the Christians fled in terror to St. Sophia. An ancient legend, firmly believed, promised that this sanctuary was absolutely safe.

Mohammed proved the fallacy of their trust by breaking down the doors, murdering those who had sought safety there, men, women and children—so many of them that finally, forcing his horse over the great pile of dead bodies, away up on the side of a pillar he planted his bloody hand on the clear wall in token of his victory over the Christians. That gory hand still overshadows the fairest portion of southeastern Europe.—Rosary Magazine.

Moon Rays are Dangerous.

In the tropics where the moon shines in all its splendor it is not uncommon for persons to be moon-struck, which is almost as serious as being overcome by the sun.

Captain Eckert, who owns a fleet of boats, was brought to the hospital last week for treatment. One night while the moon was shining brightly he decided to sleep on deck. It was perhaps three hours later when he was awakened by terrific pains in his head.

Staggering to his cabin and looking into a mirror he was horrified to discover that the left side of his face was burned red and the muscles so contracted that he was disfigured. For a time he was delirious.

Since he has been at the hospital the discoloration has gone away, but his face is still contorted, and the doctors say it may remain so for life. Captain Eckert's nervous system has been completely shattered by the stroke.

It is a theory of medical men here that the moon's rays act like the X-rays and are dangerous.—Philadelphia North American.

Read Bible Sixty-Six Times.

Mrs. E. W. Smith, of Bellefontaine, Ohio, who has been an invalid and confined to her bed for 17 years, has read the Bible through 66 times and is now beginning on the sixty-seventh reading.

"They tell me Mrs. Bitterpill works like a beaver."

"Yes, I guess that's right. She fell in love with a perfect stick and has been chewing about it ever since."—Judge.

Quaker Side of Japan.

In Japan the lower orders of life not only make war and supply meat, but evince sundry other peculiarities that render the invaluable concomitants of civilization, writes J. Ingram Bryan, in Harper's Weekly. A few days ago a number of people were seen gazing intently toward the upper limbs of a large pine tree. Stopping to learn the secret of this unusual interest a man was observed descending the tree, while a crow was furiously cawing and beating about his head. Then it was seen that the trespasser had possessed himself of one of her brood, an unpossessing little chick that no one could be imagined to fancy for a pet. Asked what he intended doing with the crow, he replied that it made excellent medicine for the blood. "Chino-michi-nokusuri," to use his exact words. To insure the efficacy of the medicine, he explained, the bird must be taken before it leaves the nest, if possible, or, if it has left the nest, before it gets to where it can drink water, for, he asserted, if it has of itself taken water it loses all virtue as a blood cure. The process of preparing the remedy is, first, to kill the crow and, without cleaning it, to incase the body in an airtight covering of cement or clay. The mold is then baked for two or three days in a hot fire. When the clay crust is removed, naturally the crow will be found to be black, a lump of pure charcoal. This is pulverized and converted into pills of the "pink" order, which are very popular here as a blood regulator. He reminded his interlocutors that the medicine was very rare because of the difficulty of finding a crow that had not taken water. The man was perfectly sincere and appeared extremely proud of his success in having secured the bird. He was reluctant to leave the tree lest there should be another one on the ground somewhere.

Those who, since the brilliant achievements of the Japanese Red Cross society in the late war, are accustomed to take for granted the advance of medical science in this country will, of course, bear in mind that the practitioner under consideration had not at this time acquired membership in any legally recognized therapeutic fraternity; but probably his nostrum was quite as effective as much of the medicine that is sold to a large constituency at a higher price in other portions of the globe.—Washington Post.

Reputation and Luck.

Nobody gifted with a sense of humor can fail to be diverted by the Pucklike manner in which luck makes and unmakes reputations for business ability. A score of years ago a gentleman named Jennings was an extensive owner of downtown real estate in Chicago. He was the first, I believe, to develop on a large scale the modern system of the ninety-nine-year lease—whereby the owner insures himself and his heirs for a century an absolutely fixed rental, free and clear of all charges. After Mr. Jennings had leased a lot of his lands for ninety-nine years a depression came on. Other people's incomes were curtailed; but his was stable. "What foresight!" said the town. "What sagacity! What superb business judgment." Mr. Jennings views on the business situation and outlook were eagerly sought. The depression passed; realty prices advanced immensely; the Jennings lots could have been leased at twice the rental named in the old indentures. The town shook its head sympathetically over poor Mr. Jennings's deplorable short-sightedness.

Please Pass the Hay.

"I have heard many stores of intelligence of animals," said a close observer of animal life, "but the actions of two horses the other day equalled, if not surpassed, many of the tales. The pair were fine looking beasts attached to a farmer's wagon, and had been left outside a feed store on Kensington avenue. Just beyond their reach were several bales of hay. By some clever maneuvering the white horse, which was nearest the pavement, managed to get a hold of some of the hay. His brown mate, not getting any of the hay, with almost human actions, made the white horse understand that he wished to share the feast. To satisfy his mate the white horse took larger mouthfuls of the hay and turned his head in a way so that the brown horse could enjoy the feast. By the time their owner reached them nearly half the bale of hay had been consumed by the pair. When the owner of the hay was informed of the unique manner in which the horses secured their luncheon he said that it was a good scheme and he would stand for the loss.

The Wise Indian.

There has been quite a little said about the grafter taking advantage of the Indian. It is not always thus. A land man who wanted an Indian's signature to a deed told the Indian, who was suffering with toothache, to go to a dentist and have his teeth fixed, and said that he, the grafter, would pay the expense. The grafter did this to jolly the Indian into signing the deed. The Indian returned from the dentist's with \$238 worth of gold crown in his head. The land man paid the bill. Whether the Indian signed the deed is not necessarily a part of the story.—Kansas City Journal.

He who loves to read and knows how to reflect has laid by a perpetual feast for old age.

SNAKES AT \$20 A FOOT.

Big Ones Consequently Come High—Some Snakes Sold by the Pound.

"Snakes," said a dealer in wild animals and reptiles, "increase in value out of all proportion to their size. So while you could buy a seven-foot python for \$12 you couldn't begin to buy one of twice that length for twice that price. A fourteen-foot python would be worth \$150, and a python twenty-five feet in length would cost \$500.

"Some sorts of smaller snakes are regularly sold by the pound, and we sometimes buy big snakes in that way of sailors that bring them in on ships coming from snake countries. We weigh the big snake in a bag and pay so much a pound for it.

"But big snakes are not sold in that way by dealers, nor are they sold by the foot, though, of course, the length governs the snake's value. Of two snakes of the same length one might be worth more money than the other, for snakes vary in their physical characteristics just as human beings do, and their prices vary accordingly.

"Of two big snakes of the same length and the same thickness one might weigh fifty pounds more than the other, and then of two big snakes of the same length the other was thicker and bulkier and as between these two, other things being equal, the bulkier snake would be worth the more, because it would make the more striking and imposing show.

"Thus, while the length does govern, it is not the only thing to be taken into account, and so big snakes are sold neither by the pound nor by the foot, but at prices fixed on each individual snake.

"We import annually hundreds of big snakes, the great majority of them ranging in length between seven and twenty feet. The very biggest snakes are becoming scarcer and more difficult to obtain. Our collector in India, while in the course of that time he has gathered many big snakes, has in the last six months obtained but one snake measuring twenty-five feet in length.

"Big snakes and little ones are sold to zoological parks and to show people all over the country. For the very largest snakes the demand is greater than the supply."

Carpet-Makers in Society.

Year by year English society seems to be getting more businesslike, and now it is interesting to note that several well-known people have gone in for the carpet industry, says the London Tatler. An American contemporary has just described a number of people who have taken up carpet making as a hobby. The Duchess of Sutherland has started carpet making at Helmsdale in Sutherlandshire and this enterprise has found work for many women whose source of income has been diminished by the failure of the fishing on the Highland coasts. Then the Earl of Pembroke has started a carpet factory at Wilton on strictly business lines. The Earl of Rander and Sir John Dickson-Poynder have joined in the scheme, and a small private company has been formed with a capital of £20,000. Axminster carpets of fine quality are produced which cost about six guineas to every square yard, and each of these yards contains about 186,000 knots of wool. Viscount De Vesci of the Irish Guards has founded a carpet factory at Abbey Leix, his place in Queens county, Ireland.

Early and Late Cities.

There are early cities and late cities. Vienna is in bed by 11—though, oddly, a Wiener cafe in Germany is a cafe that is open all night long. Madrid never goes to bed at all. To this writer in New York a waiter averred, at the breakfast table, that the latest supper he had served was at 8 a. m. But what will happen if the closing hour in London is placed at 11? It is a sum that may be worked out on your fingers. The play that ends at 10 must begin soon after 6. And there comes the backward shove of meals. We must eat our dinner at 5 (if theatre and supper are still to be taken), and thus return to the fashion that was out of date when Tom Brown was at Oxford—the fashion that the late King of Denmark loved. Supper will be over and almost forgotten by 11. Then nothing will be left but bed. And the shift of hours may bring us back to the early rising of our forefathers, when Pepys thought nothing of being afoot by 4 in the morning.

Church Curtained Steeple.

The historic St. Bride's Church, the aged vicar of which recently died, has had the novel experience of having its steeple shortened on two occasions. The steeple, which is considered to be one of Wren's masterpieces, was originally 234 feet high, and, with the exception of St. Paul's Cathedral, was the highest spire in London. It was struck by lightning in 1754—not the first time in its history—and as a result of the damage was reduced to 226 feet. A few years ago it became expedient, owing to the action of the weather to slice off several feet more and to strengthen the structure generally. The steeple of the original church, destroyed by the great fire, had a novel claim to notoriety, for one of the vicars had a bed chamber fitted up in it, in order that he might expend on the poor the money it would cost to live in a rectory.—London Mail.

How to Cure Liver Trouble

Keep Your Bowels Regular and Your Stomach Sweet

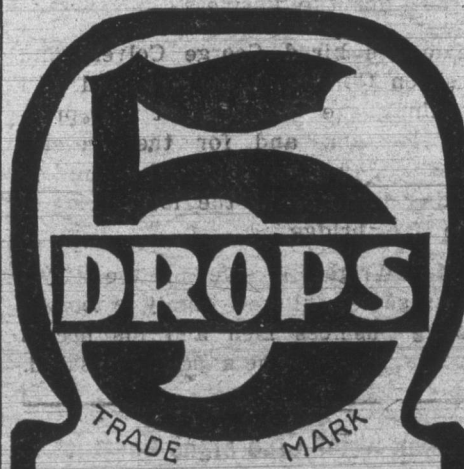
People sometimes imagine when they have liver trouble or are bilious that the main thing to do is to take physic. Taking pills and keeping your bowels regular are two very different matters. The use of a violent cathartic does not mean the cure of constipation or the establishment of regular movements. A physic is an emergency remedy, but never a bowel treatment. If the bowels do not move regularly there is a reason deeper seated than the mere clogging up that is removed by a dose of salts or pills.

When that drowsy, tired feeling, with the coated tongue, the dull head pains, the sour stomach, the sallow complexion, constipated bowels and touches of fever come on it is time to take a medicine that will act on the bowels gently and mildly, cleansing and strengthening them, stir up the liver and aid the stomach in digesting the food.

Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin does this every time. Take a few doses and see how quickly the drowsy feeling leaves, regular bowel movements come back, with a good appetite and perfect digestion, and you soon feel like your old self. It does not gripe nor pain, it acts smoothly, mildly and is very pleasant to take. Wm. Hinckman, Mesick, Mich., says: "I was troubled with indigestion and liver trouble. I have used Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin with fine results. It is a perfect laxative and I now feel as strong and well as formerly." Wm. Block, Niagara, Ill., says: "Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin is the best remedy I ever used for liver complaint or constipation."

Mrs. R. H. Brown, Addington, Ind. Ter., was troubled with torpid liver and constipation. Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin gave her prompt relief. All druggists sell it at 50c and \$1.00 per bottle.

Pepsin Syrup Co., 308 Caldwell Bldg., Monticello, Ill., is glad to send a free sample to anyone who has never used it and will give it a fair trial.



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